

**ECOSYSTEM STATUS INDICATORS*****Benthic Communities and Non-target Fish Species*****Miscellaneous species - Eastern Bering Sea**

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Three species of eelpouts are predominant on the eastern Bering Sea shelf: marbled eelpout (*Lycodes raridens*), wattled eelpout (*L. palearis*) and shortfin eelpout (*L. brevipes*). Total catch per unit effort (CPUE) of this group appeared higher in the early 1980s than in the late 1980s to the present (Figure 82). Although lower, CPUE appears to have been relatively stable in the recent time period. Further analyses are needed to examine CPUE trends at the species level. The CPUE of poachers, likely dominated by sturgeon poacher (*Podothecus acipenserinus*), was low in the early 1980s but increased in the late 1980s to the mid-1990s. Poacher CPUE appeared to increase in recent years and may have returned to levels seen in the early 1990s (Figure 82). Echinoderms on the shelf mainly consist of purple-orange seastar (*Asterias amurensis*), which is found primarily in the inner/middle shelf regions, and common mud star (*Ctenodiscus crispatus*), which is primarily an inhabitant of the outer shelf. CPUE values for this group on the shelf were higher from the mid 1980s to the present compared to the early 1980s. More research on the life history characteristics of non-target species is required to understand the possible reasons for these CPUE trends.

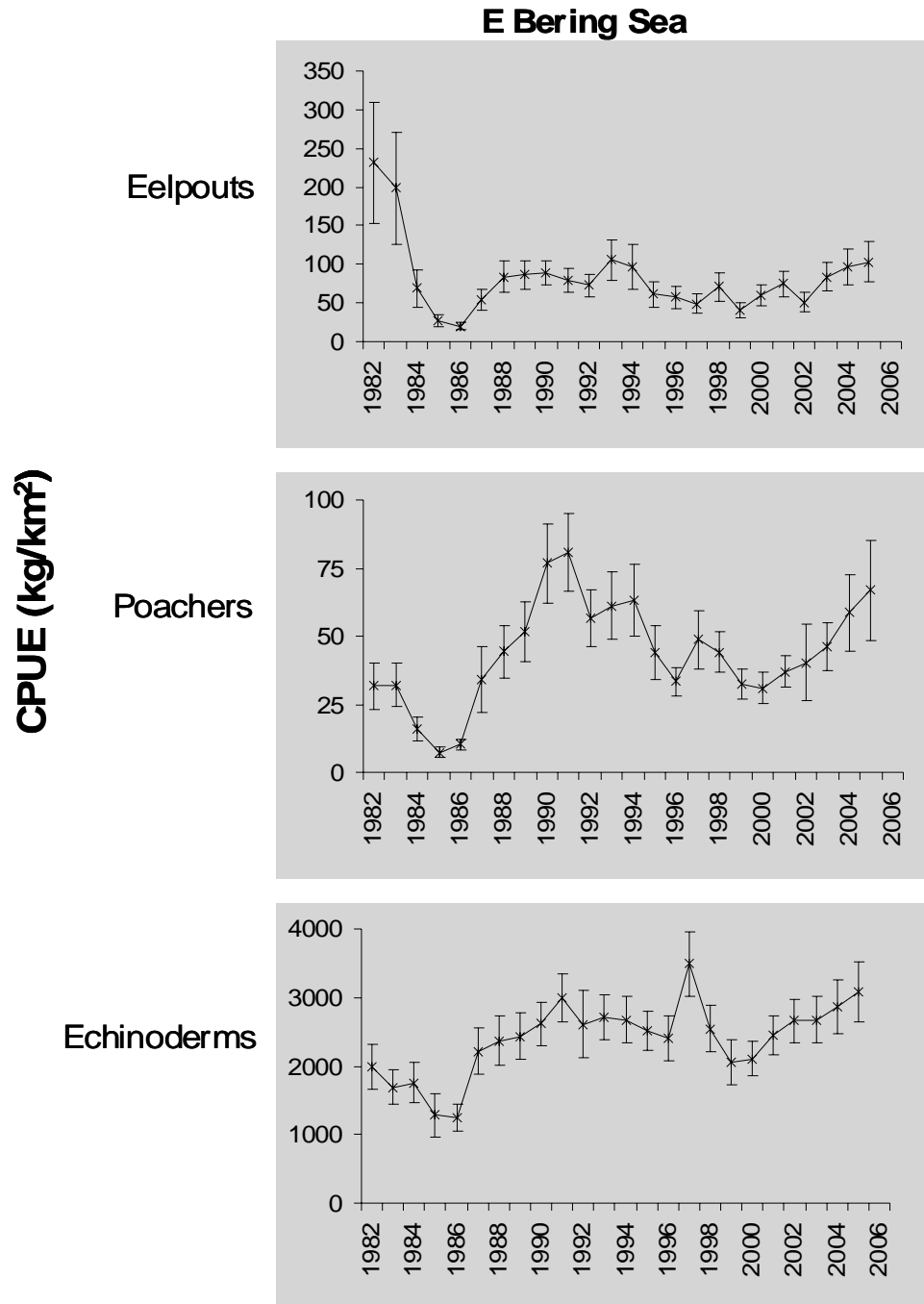


Figure 82. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) of miscellaneous species caught in the eastern Bering Sea summer bottom trawl survey, 1982-2005. Data points are shown with 95% confidence intervals.